

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT TACOMA

DEBRA VERSTEEG,

Plaintiff,

v.

CAROLYN W. COLVIN, Acting  
Commissioner of Social Security,

Defendant.

Case No. 3:16-cv-05075-RBL

ORDER DENYING APPLICATION  
TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS

THIS MATTER comes before the Court on plaintiff's filing of an application to proceed *in forma pauperis* and a complaint to review and set aside a decision of the Social Security Administration under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). Because plaintiff's application indicates that her household has sufficient income and assets with which to pay the filing fee, the undersigned denies the application.

DISCUSSION

The district court may permit indigent litigants to proceed *in forma pauperis* upon completion of a proper affidavit of indigency. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). However, the Court has broad discretion in denying an application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. *Weller v. Dickson*, 314 F.2d 598 (9th Cir. 1963), *cert. denied*, 375 U.S. 845 (1963).

By requesting the court to proceed *in forma pauperis*, plaintiff is asking the government to incur the filing fee because she allegedly is unable to afford the costs necessary to proceed

1 with her cause of action.

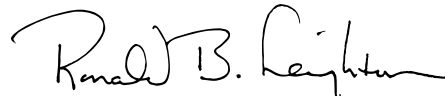
2 In her application, plaintiff indicated that her husband's net yearly salary (take-home pay)  
3 is \$38,400. Dkt. 1 at 1. While the undersigned recognizes that \$3,200 per month does not  
4 constitute a substantial net income, given that plaintiff and her husband have significant savings  
5 and assets, it does not seem unreasonable to expect her to pay the required filing fee. *See* Dkt. 1  
6 at 2.

7 CONCLUSION

8 Because it is reasonable for plaintiff to incur the costs to proceed with this cause of  
9 action, the undersigned denies her application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Accordingly, the  
10 undersigned orders plaintiff to pay the required filing fee within thirty (30) days of the filing of  
11 this order.

12 IT IS SO ORDERED.

13 DATED this 1st day of February, 2016.

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16 RONALD B. LEIGHTON  
17 United States District Judge  
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